

Reclaim Education

Notes on the global struggle

October 7th: The "Global Wave" kicked off !!

The "Global Wave of Action for Education" kicked off with a massive "Day of Action to Defend Education" in the U.S.A. on October 7th. Tens of thousands of people participated in about 80 protest actions against the privatisation of public education, budget cuts, the de-democratisation within universities and constantly increasing tuition fees in 25 states across the country.

Various rallies, sit-ins and teach-outs were held. One of the biggest sit-ins took place at the University of California (Berkeley) with about 600 students storming a library and squatting

it until the night.

Almost everywhere speeches were held. To give you an example a speech held by Eva v. Dassow on behalf of the "Faculty for the Renewal of Public Education" during a rally at the University of Minnesota has been published inside the forum of the "International Student Movement": http://emancipating-education-for-all.org/eva_dassow_speech

In Bochum (Germany) students marked the kick-off with a banner drop. The following statement was sent in:

"While attending a meeting at the Ruhr-University of Bochum, activists discussed the idea behind the "Global Wave of Action for Education" and decided to express their solidarity on October 7th. In order to raise awareness of the International Student Movement, two banners were hung and flyers with the joint statement and an additional mobilisation text were distributed at the university. We wish the very best to all the activists who organise protests around the world.

One world, one struggle!"



Details on the day of action in the U.S.A.: www.defendededucation.org

October 8th: Pupils & Students flood streets across Italy + "Democracy Rally" in London

Almost 300,000 pupils and students in about 80 cities across Italy took to the streets in protest against new reforms (pushed by Gelmini, the minister for education, universities and

science), which will result in budget cuts and the increasing privatisation of education.

At least four activists were arrested after an attack on the demonstration by police forces in Milan.

The protests were called for by Unione degli Studenti (UDS), who also confirmed that this day of action is linked to the "Global Wave".

On the same day people gathered in London (UK) for a "Democracy Rally" which was organised by the Democracy Village Peoples Assembly (DVPA). The DVPA is also among the groups endorsing the international "joint statement" and see its action in context of the "Global Wave".

About 100 people came together for music, food, discussions, assemblies and a rally.

website for further details:
www.democracyrally.org



for details in Italian: www.unionedeglistudenti.net/sito

About this newsletter

This newsletter is part of the communication infrastructure of the independent platform "International Student Movement" (ISM). The ISM is being used and shaped by education activists and groups around the world who are struggling against the increasing privatisation of public education and for free emancipatory education for all.

Currently the "Global Wave of Action for Education" is being coordinated, which explains the focus on protests related to that inside this edition.

The "Global Wave" kicked off with a huge "Day of Action to Defend Education" in the U.S.A. on October 7th and will continue with various actions worldwide at least until the end of November. It mainly consists of three elements: an international "joint statement", a "united symbol" and communication/coordination on the global level (e.g. using the infrastructure of the ISM).

This newsletter is the result of voluntary work done by a few individuals who are passionate about this issue. The positions expressed are not in any way representative for any group or the "International Student Movement" as a whole.

For further details:

website: <http://emancipating-education-for-all.org>

contact: united.for.education@gmail.com

October 12th: Day of Action across the Ukraine

More than 20,000 students in 15 cities across the Ukraine protested against the decision by the government to allow public universities to introduce new fees. They were organised by the left-wing syndicalist union "Direct Action", striving for libertarian education and the "Foundation of Regional Initiatives".

Only last year students prevented similar reforms by staging mass-protests. Now, in late August, the new Azarov government passed another set of reforms that allow university admins to install fees for missed classes, for the use of libraries and gymnasiums as well as internet access among others. The authorities are about to increase the fees for dormitories and reduce the number of students able to study for free, although the Ukrainian Constitution (like many others as well) formally guarantees free access to higher education.

Unlike the Ukrainian far right blaming some people in the government as 'Un-Ukrainian', independent student activists emphasize that the problem is not in personalities but in the system itself. They see the introduction of new fees symptomatic to the currently dominating economic system.

They call to resist this development and want to extend their struggle.

In Kiev 2,000 students participated in a demonstration demanding free education for all. Slogans included "Liberty, Equality, Student Solidarity!", "Knowledge not for sale!", "Universities aren't markets!" and "Rebel, love, don't give up your rights". Some banners stated "Student

Solidarity", "Down with social barriers!" and in Orwellian-style "War is Peace, Freedom is Slavery, Ignorance is Strength... Knowledge is Commodity?". A solidarity greeting from the well-known author Serhiy Zhadan was read, the international context with the "Global Wave of Action for Education" and the endorsement of the "International Student Move-

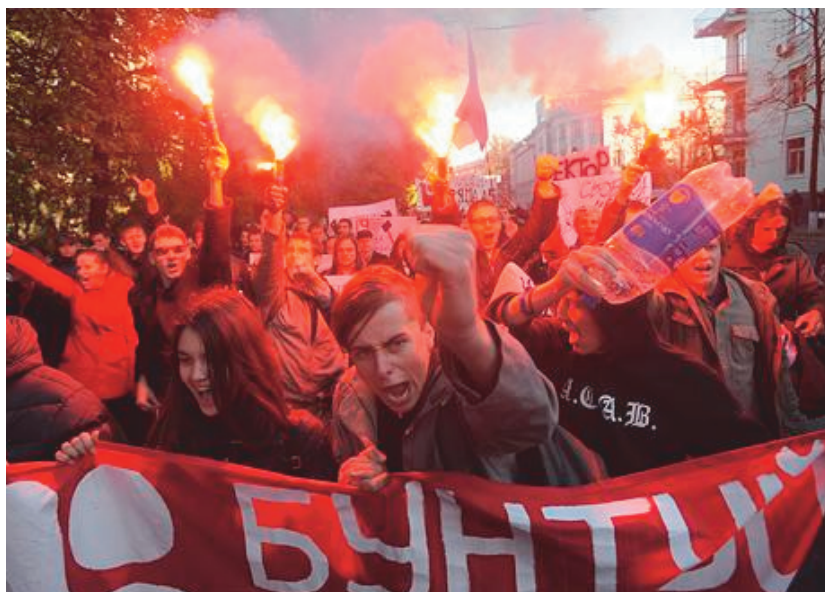
ment" explained, as well as leaflets calling on students' self-organization and struggle were distributed.

The demonstration in Lviv was probably the largest with up to 7,000 people joining. The building of the regional administration was attacked by unknown people who threw smoke bombs, tomatoes and eggs. However, ultimately no arrests were made and everything ended peacefully.

In the Transcarpathian city of Uzhhorod, the protest organized by the "Foundation of Regional Initiatives" was attended by about 1,000 young people, an enormous number for the smallest of 24 regional centers of the Ukraine. It was definitely the biggest demonstration the city has seen in recent years.

Facing the rage of the students, president Yanukovich initially announced that the government reforms would be suspended. However, this was revealed to be a lie to calm down the revolutionary students. The campaign against commercialization of education isn't over. The struggle continues!

for details:
www.direct-action.org.ua



during the demonstration in Kiev

General Assemblies/Demonstrations across Austria

More than 20,000 students, professors, parents and rectors took to the streets in Austria as part of a day of action including general assemblies at all 21 public universities in the country. About 15,000 protested in capital Vienna alone.

The "Audimax" - largest lecture hall of Austria at the University of Vienna

- was re-occupied by more than 800 students. Why "RE"-occupied? Because the exactly same lecture hall was already squatted for almost 3 months by thousands of students in the fight against tuition fees, budget cuts and for free emancipatory education one year ago.

This time the "Audimax" was rel-

claimed for about 12 hours. The following morning the remaining squatters were escorted outside by the police. Once on the streets about 60 protesters gathered for a spontaneous demonstration to the ministry. They were immediately surrounded by police forces and eight students had their IDs recorded.

At the Johann-Kepler University in Linz a resolution was passed by the 1,000 students who attended the general assembly rejecting any sort of tuition fees and restrictions to the access of higher education.

3,000 people rocked the streets in the city of Graz, 1,500 in Innsbruck and 1,000 in Linz and Salzburg each.

Short notes

October 15th

More than 100,000 teachers, staff, parents, students and workers took to the streets across Italy following a day of strike within the education sector called for by COBAS (Confederazione dei Comitati di Base) in defence of public education as a common good.

www.cobas.it

October 20th

Over 120 students attended an urgent rally on the University of Essex (UK) campus in opposition to the further marketization of the United Kingdom's education system in the form of proposed devastating cuts and unlimited tuition fees. The International Student Movement was mentioned, and a list of the recent global events taken as inspiration for future action.

October 20th

PEMBEBASAN was among the leading actors calling for protests for free education and against increasing prices for basic necessities in Indonesia! They mobilised for these protests as part of the "Global Wave" in various cities such as Jakarta, Yogyakarta and Samarinda.

Activists declared the day of action in Austria as part of the "Global Wave".
details: www.unibrennt.at

